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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

REPORT NO. [REDACTED]

INFORMATION REPORT

CD NO.

25X1A

COUNTRY Bulgaria

DATE DISTR. 20 Sept. 1951

SUBJECT Antiaircraft Artillery Installations and Air
Reid Shelters in Ruse

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1. A 20-mm. light antiaircraft gun of German manufacture is mounted on a cement base between the shipyard workshop and the harbor at Ruse. The gun is protected from the sides.
2. All air raid shelters within the city limits of Ruse, excepting one near the main post office, are completely unusable. Heavy rains have caused water and silt to collect in them. They were condemned in 1945 and in 1946 the city started filling them. When the authorities decided to reopen some, they found it impossible to do so. The shelter near the post office, located approximately 200 to 300 meters from the post office entrance, is in usable condition and could hold up to 200 people.
3. The basement of the Justice Building, which is located in the center of the town, can be used as an air raid shelter because it is protected by heavy concrete walls. This shelter could hold up to 1,500 people.
4. All the old air raid shelters along the banks of the Danube River extending from the electrical power station to the shipbuilding workshop have been completely renovated and are now serviceable. There are approximately 20 of these spaced from 100 to 400 meters apart over a distance of two kilometers. They are of varying capacities, holding from 200 to 300 persons. The total capacity of these river air raid shelters is between 4,000 and 6,000 persons.
5. To the east of the electric power plant and along the river bank there are several more air raid shelters which are in the process of being cleaned and renovated. It is not known when this work will be completed.
6. The Communist Party has organized courses in air raid prevention work and is forming corps of air raid wardens, air raid debris clearing crews, and first aid crews. Membership in these organizations has been limited to those who would not normally participate in a general mobilization, such as old people and defense workers.

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